

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111**

Serial Number: 09/945536

Filing Date: August 30, 2001

Title: THERMAL PROCESSING OF METAL ALLOYS FOR AN IMPROVED CMP PROCESS IN INTEGRATED CIRCUIT FABRICATIONPage 8  
Dkt: 303.469US3**REMARKS**

Claims 31, 32 and 40 are amended; as a result, claims 18-44 are now pending in this application.

The Examiner indicated that all claims are allowable except for claims 31, 33 and 40-44.

Dependent claim 32 was indicated as allowable if it is rewritten in independent form.

Claim 32 is rewritten. Thus, claim 32 is now in condition for allowance.

Independent claims 31 and 40 are amended to include elements similar to the elements of the allowable claim 29. Thus, claims 31 and 40 and their dependent claims 33, 41-44 are now also allowable.

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Dkt: 303.469US3**CONCLUSION**

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's representative (612-373-6969) to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743

Respectfully submitted,

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By their Representatives,

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Date 8-7-03

By   
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